

F731 PRAIRIAL

The French guided missile frigate Prairial (F 731) visited Oahu for four days starting Oct 1. Tourists and local residents alike could view the French ship, berthed at pier 10 in the Honolulu Harbor beside the Aloha Tower.

While in port, the ship held activities, and invited members of the U.S. Navy and the local community to interact with the French sailors. Selected sailors from the ship were also able to spend time involved in activities at Naval Station Pearl Harbor aboard an American ship.

French frigates like Prairial are mainly used to patrol overseas maritime zones over which France implements its sovereignty. In peace time, the also enforce navigational police, control fishery and protect trade traffic.

They are sometimes used in humanitarian missions as in 1999 when the Prairial was integrated in a naval task in East-Timor.

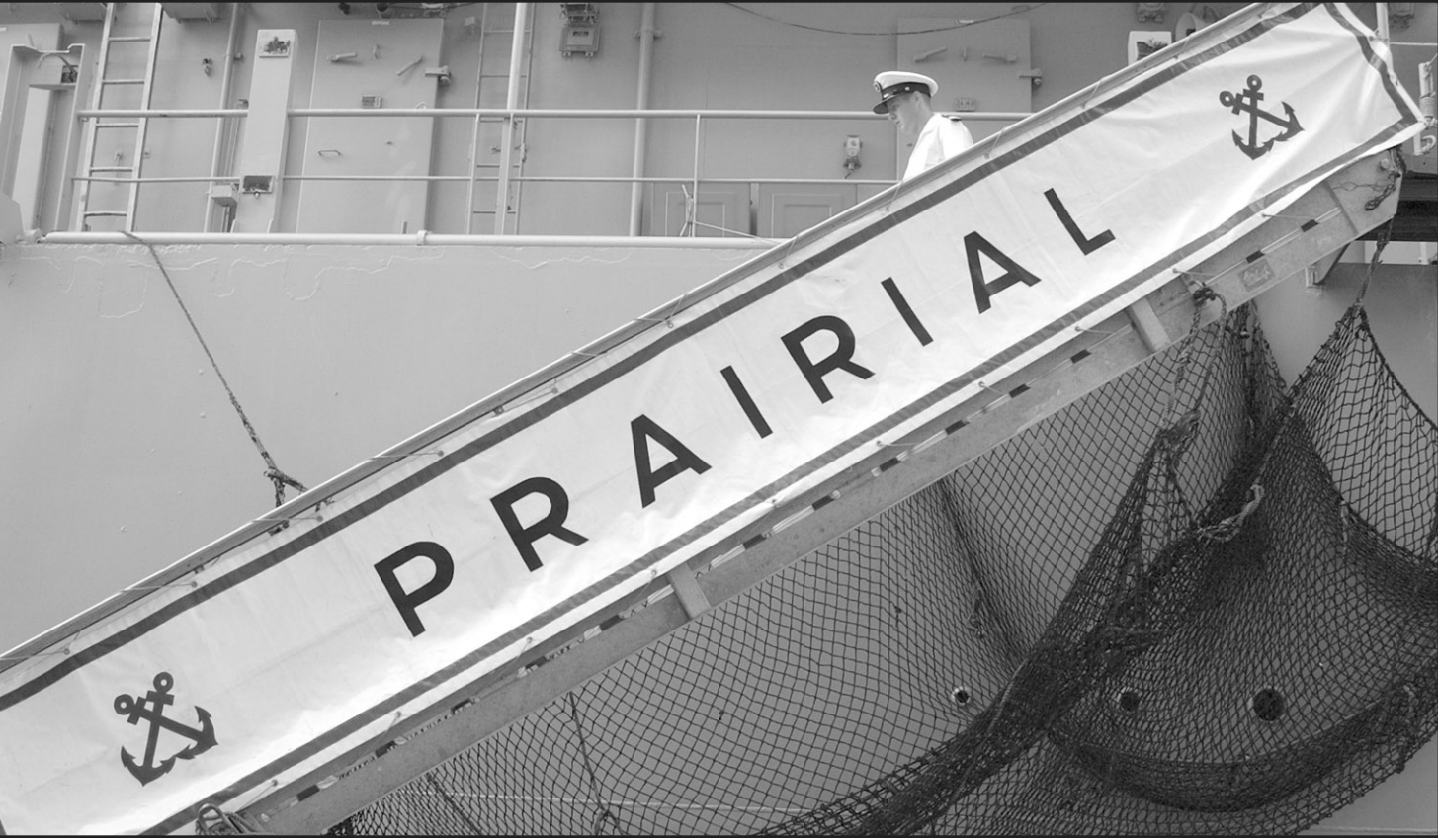
Prairial was commissioned in 1992 and has been homeported in Papeete, Tahiti since.



Guided Missile Frigate Prairial (F 731) at pier 10, Honolulu Harbor.



French seaman Steve Amaru adjusts lines after his ship pulled into Oahu beside the Aloha Tower.



Above: The ship has a crew of 12 officers, 55 petty officers and 22 seaman. It also can carry up to 25 extra sailors for specific operational needs.

Right: A sailor takes advantage of the slow time in port to touch up the paint on the ship.



Photos by
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Guided missile frigate Prairial (F 731), berthed in Honolulu Harbor for four days, gave its sailors the chance to explore Hawaii and interact with American Sailors.



A tourist visiting the Aloha Tower gets the chance to talk with a French sailor.